

THE ENERGY OBSERVER

*Energy Efficiency Information for the
Facility Manager*

Quarterly Issue – September 2005

ENERGY STAR[®] Tools

The Energy Observer summarizes published material on proven energy technologies and practices, and encourages users to exchange experiences with generic energy products and services. This quarterly bulletin also identifies informational sources and energy training for facility managers and staff. **The Energy Observer** is a service of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Energy Office.

This edition of the Energy Observer focuses on tools available to commercial building owners and operators through the ENERGY STAR Program. These tools can help you to improve your buildings, set goals, develop work plans and timelines and track your progress. They include technical resources, rating systems, analysis and other useful tools.

WHAT IS ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, business and individuals united to protect our environment for future generations by implementing energy-efficient practices today. ENERGY STAR is sponsored jointly by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Last year alone, ENERGY STAR helped businesses and consumers save more than \$10 billion in energy costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those generated by 20 million cars.

ENERGY STAR addresses energy efficiency in homes, governments, schools and businesses. If looking for a new home, look for one that has earned the ENERGY STAR.

In schools, governments and businesses a strategic approach to energy management can produce twice the savings as typical approaches. The ENERGY STAR partnership offers a proven energy management strategy that helps in measuring current energy performance, setting goals, tracking savings, and rewarding improvements.

Energy Star provides an innovative energy performance rating system, called Portfolio Manager, which has already been used for more than 21,000 buildings across the country. The ENERGY STAR Building Label and other awards are also available to recognize top performing buildings.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER

The Portfolio Manager is an online tool that can be accessed at: <https://www.energystar.gov/istar/pmpa/m/>. This tool allows you to benchmark, manage data, set priorities and verify building energy performance.

Benchmarking: Begin with rating the performance of your buildings on a scale of 1-100 relative to similar buildings nationwide using the national energy performance rating system. The rating system accounts for the impacts of year-

to-year weather variations, as well as building size, location, and several operating characteristics.

Eligible space types:

- Offices (general offices, financial centers, bank branches, and courthouses)
- K-12 Schools
- Hospitals (acute care and children's)
- Hotels and Motels
- Medical Offices
- Supermarkets
- Residence Halls
- Warehouses (refrigerated and non-refrigerated)

Management: Streamline energy data management for individual and large groups of buildings. View the energy consumption, average energy intensity, and average rating of your entire portfolio simultaneously. Update and track data over time to continuously monitor performance.

Choose whether to allow access to your building data by other individuals.



Investment priorities: Use both short- and long-term trends in energy performance to make budget and management decisions regarding investments in energy-related projects. Rank the performance of large buildings in a portfolio to identify the best investment opportunities.

Verification: Verify building performance and track the progress of improvement projects. Generate a Statement of Energy Performance for each building, summarizing important energy information and building characteristics.

Recognition: The ENERGY STAR building label is awarded to those buildings that achieve a score of 75 or above in the Portfolio Manager. After the application process is completed and a building label is issued you will receive a certificate of recognition as well as a bronze plaque to display on the recipient building.

In Michigan you will be eligible for the ENERGY STAR Building Label Incentive, to assist with any verification fees during the application process www.michigan.gov/eorebuild. Also a representative from the Energy Office can make a presentation of the plaque to a group in your community or organization and assist with media attention to the planned event.

ADDITIONAL INTERACTIVE TOOLS

Each of the interactive tools below can be found on the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov.

- Use [Portfolio Manager](#) to track and benchmark energy use.
- Let [Target Finder](#) set an energy consumption goal for new buildings.

- [Delta Score Estimator](#) provides a quick way to identify the relationship between the percent energy saved in a building and the energy performance rating score of a building using ENERGY STAR standards.

- Assess financial value by using the [Financial Value Calculator](#) to estimate increased earnings from energy reductions

- Use [QuikScope](#) to calculate financial benefits of energy investments for income producing properties

- Use the [Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator](#) to help answer critical questions about energy efficiency investments

ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS

In addition to buildings, ENERGY STAR provides rating systems for energy-consuming products. There are more than 40 different categories of products that can be labeled with the ENERGY STAR logo.

When purchasing appliances, computers and office equipment, make certain to specify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR standards for eligible products. Manufacturers are required to meet certain energy efficiency criteria before they can label a product with the ENERGY STAR logo, so these products represent your best energy saving value. Information on ENERGY STAR equipment requirements is available at: www.energystar.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

ENERGY STAR offers *free tools and seminars* for evaluating building performance and equipment efficiency.

www.energystar.gov

The Michigan Energy Office has information about local ENERGY STAR resources and achievements at: www.michigan.gov/energyoffice (select either Residential or Public Buildings).

The State of Michigan has joined the **ENERGY STAR Building Challenge** and pledged to reduce Energy consumption by 10% in State owned buildings! For more information visit:

www.michigan.gov/eostate

Visit the Energy Office website for information on current programs, services, past issues of **The Energy Observer** and grant information.

www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

For more information on this issue or past issues of **The Energy Observer**, please contact:

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